

## Claim Amendments

Amend claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 20.

1 (currently amended).        A chassis for a stringed musical instrument, comprising:

~~a rigid support member having a top side, the top side having a front portion for receiving~~  
a neck of a stringed musical instrument; and a back portion for securing at least one string; ~~and;~~

a body receiving portion, said body receiving portion consisting essentially of a basal  
side of said chassis disposed opposite said top side of the chassis;

a bridge disposed on ~~the support member~~ said top side for elevating strings off the  
surface ~~of the body member~~ thereof;

a first attachment mechanism for releasably attaching a neck of a stringed musical  
instrument at the front portion of ~~the support member~~ said top side; and

a second attachment mechanism for releasably attaching a body of a stringed musical  
instrument at the body receiving portion of ~~the support member~~ said chassis.

2 (currently amended).        The chassis of claim 1, wherein ~~the support member~~ said chassis is  
made of metal.

3 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 1, wherein the front portion comprises a recess formed in ~~the support member~~ said top side of said chassis.

4 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 3, wherein ~~the support member~~ said chassis is made of solid material.

5 (original). The chassis of claim 4, wherein the solid material is metal.

6 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 3, wherein the body receiving portion ~~comprises a surface of the support member on a side thereof opposite the bridge~~ is substantially flat.

7 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 6, wherein ~~the support member~~ said chassis is made of solid material.

8 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 7, wherein the ~~support member~~ solid material is ~~made of~~ metal.

9 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 7, wherein the second attachment mechanism comprises a threaded aperture in ~~the support member~~ said basal side of said chassis.

10 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 7, wherein the first attachment mechanism ~~attachment~~ comprises a threaded fastener.

11 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 7, further comprising one or more slots formed in the back portion ~~of the support member~~ thereof for receiving respective strings.

12 (currently amended). The chassis of claim 1, further comprising one or more slots formed in the back portion ~~of the support member~~ thereof for receiving respective strings.

13 (currently amended). A stringed musical instrument including the chassis of claim 1 and further comprising a neck ~~removably~~ attached to the chassis at the front portion thereof, a body ~~removably~~ attached to the chassis at the body receiving portion thereof, said body having no substantial contact with said chassis except at said body receiving portion, and at least one string, affixed at one end to the back portion of the chassis and at the opposing end to the neck, said at least one string passing over the bridge and being under tension sufficient for generating a musical tone.

14 (original). The stringed musical instrument of claim 13, wherein the neck includes a fingerboard over which said at least one string passes.

15 (original). The stringed musical instrument of claim 14, wherein the fingerboard is equipped with frets.

16 (original). The stringed musical instrument of claim 14, wherein the neck is equipped with a headstock and tuning pegs.

17 (original). The stringed instrument of claim 16, wherein the chassis is constructed of metal.

18 (original). The stringed instrument of claim 13, wherein the chassis is constructed of metal.

19 (original). The stringed instrument of claim 13, wherein the neck is equipped with a headstock and tuning pegs.

20 (currently amended). A method for assembling a stringed instrument, comprising:

providing a ~~support member~~ chassis having a top side having a front portion for receiving a neck of a stringed musical instrument, and a back portion for securing at least one string; and a body receiving portion, said body receiving portion consisting essentially of a basal side of said chassis disposed opposite said top side of the chassis;

providing a bridge disposed on said top side of the ~~support member~~ chassis for elevating strings off the surface of ~~the body member~~ thereof;

~~releasably~~ attaching a neck of a stringed musical instrument at the front portion of the ~~support member~~ chassis;

~~releasably~~ attaching a body of a stringed musical instrument at the body receiving portion of the ~~support member~~ chassis, such that said body has no substantial contact with said chassis except at said body receiving portion thereof; and

securing said at least one string between the neck and the back portion of the ~~support~~  
~~member~~ chassis, said at least one string passing over the bridge and being under tension  
sufficient for generating a musical tone.